

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

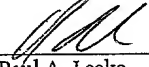
In re Application of: ) Examiner: N/Y/A  
Lobmann et al. ) Group Art Unit: N/Y/A

Application No.: N/Y/A

Filed: Herewith

For: PROCESS FOR DEPOSITING  
LAYERS OF ZIRCONIUM OXIDE )  
USING SOLUBLE POWDERS :

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 Label No. EL474184727US on the date indicated and addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

 Date: December 18, 2001  
Paul A. Lesko  
Registration No. 45,364

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, kindly amend the specification at page one after the title and before the first line of text, by inserting at that point the following -- This patent application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Number 09/648,339 filed August 25, 2000. U.S. Patent Application Number 09/648,339, claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of German Patent Application Number 199 43 789.0, filed September 13, 1999. German Patent Application Number 199 43 789.0 is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.--

A clean copy of this paragraph is attached to this Amendment.

REMARKS

No new matter is presented in this divisional patent application. Claims 1-9 are currently pending in this application. These claims correspond to the non-elected claims from U.S. Patent


PATENT APPLICATION  
41946/30370

Application No. 09/648,339. For the examiner's convenience, the claims from the originally filed application track the new claims as follows:

<b>Instant Application</b>	<b>U.S. Application No. 09/648,339</b>
Claim No. 1 tracks to:	Claim No. 10
Claim No. 2 tracks to:	Claim No. 11
Claim No. 3 tracks to:	Claim No. 12
Claim No. 4 tracks to:	Claim No. 13
Claim No. 5 tracks to:	Claim No. 14
Claim No. 6 tracks to:	Claim No. 15
Claim No. 7 tracks to:	Claim No. 16
Claim No. 8 tracks to:	Claim No. 17
Claim No. 9 tracks to:	Claim No. 18

Kindly consider this preliminary amendment and enter it into the record of this application. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at Thompson Coburn LLP by telephone at (314) 552-6443. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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## Clean Copy of Specification Text

This patent application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Number 09/648,339 filed August 25, 2000. U.S. Patent Application Number 09/648,339, claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of German Patent Application Number 199 43 789.0, filed September 13, 1999. German Patent Application Number 199 43 789.0 is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

Patent # 4,442,000